

## OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Minutes of meeting of the Regulatory Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 4 June 2014 commencing at 10.00 am

**Present:**

- Cr Gerrard Eckhoff (Chairperson)
- Cr Graeme Bell
- Cr Doug Brown
- Cr Louise Croot MNZM
- Cr Michael Deaker
- Cr Gary Kelliher
- Cr Trevor Kempton
- Cr Gretchen Robertson
- Cr Bryan Scott
- Cr David Shepherd
- Cr Stephen Woodhead

One minute's silence was observed to note the passing of Suzanne Bodeker, wife of Chief Executive Peter Bodeker.

Cr Bell noted the passing of Mr Tommy Thompson, who had had long local government experience in Central Otago.

**Leave of Absence:** Cr Sam Neill

**In attendance:**

- Wayne Scott
- Jeff Donaldson
- Fraser McRae
- Gavin Palmer
- Janet Favel

#### CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

#### MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2014, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Croot and Robertson.

#### Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 1

2014/0819 **Biosecurity and RMA Monitoring Report. DEMO, 22/5/14**

The report detailed water, air, pest, and contaminated site monitoring and incidents for the period 22 March to 30 April 2014.

The following items were discussed:

### *1.1.2 Water metering*

Mr Donaldson explained that abatement notices issued from 1 July would require consent holders who had not installed a water meter to cease taking water, and any breach would result in an instant fine. Abatement notices generated during June would require consent holders to cease and desist from taking water from the beginning of the next irrigation season, and this action had been publicised.

Delays caused by the paucity of installers were noted, but the importance of quality installation was also pointed out. Mr Donaldson agreed, but noted that to date consent holders had had two years to get meters installed. In response to a question about enforcement where stockwater was required, Mr Donaldson advised that animal welfare issues would be dealt with on a case by case basis.

### *3.1.1 Rabbits*

There was concern that the Maximum Allowable Level (MAL) for rabbits was exceeded on almost 90% of properties inspected. Mr Donaldson explained the rabbit numbers were now at pre-virus levels. A number of property owners were carrying out control activities, but there were control problems particularly on properties surrounded by lifestyle blocks, and noted that a lot of lifestyle block owners did not understand the importance of rabbit-proof fences. Increased rabbit numbers could also result from where work was not carried out over the whole of the property, or where there were absentee landowners. Mr Donaldson advised that a number of rabbit-control workshops for lifestyle block owners had been run.

In response to a question Mr Donaldson explained that the South Island Pest Management Strategy would be used to remove the Otago middle step of requirement for a management plan, and go straight to a notice of direction, which would enable the ORC to proceed more quickly. There was concern that ORC did not have sufficient resources for this work. Mr Donaldson explained that there was both in-house and contractor resource. He also noted that the ORC made its carrot cutter available to contractors, and some were considering the use of 1080 pellets, which was the most effective treatment. However he noted concern that sublethal dosing had been applied.

A question was raised about appropriate conditions on subdivisions. Mr Donaldson explained that Council submitted on subdivision consent

applications seeking conditions be applied requiring the provision of rabbit-proof fencing.

### *3.1.2 Rook control*

In response to a question Mr Donaldson explained that rooks were considered a pest because of their detrimental effect on new grass, and Canterbury and Southland Regions were also trying to contain them. He noted that poisoning of nests had worked well.

### *5. Operations*

The opening of the bar at the mouth of the Clutha River/Mata-Au was noted. Mr Donaldson explained that this was carried out because the river was flooding back into Inchclutha and Kaitangata. The work was assisted by Contact Energy and Mr Scott also noted that this outlet was maintained as part of the flood control scheme.

Cr Croot moved  
Cr Bell seconded

*That the report be noted.*

### **Motion carried**

Item 2  
2014/0858

### **Consent processing, consent administration and Building Control Authority update. DPPRM, 23/5/14**

The report detailed consent processing, consent administration and building control authority activity for the period 3 April to 16 May 2014.

Cr Woodhead moved  
Cr Scott seconded

*That the report be noted.*

### **Motion carried**

Item 3  
2014/0830

### **RMA, Biosecurity Act and Building Act Enforcement Activities. DPPRM, 14/5/14**

The report detailed Resource Management Act 1991, Biosecurity Act 1993 and Building Act 2004 enforcement activities undertaken for the period 29 March to 13 May 2014.

Cr Croot moved  
Cr Kelliher seconded

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

Item 4  
2014/0843

**Appointment of hearing commissioners. DPPRM, 20/5/14**

The report listed hearing commissioners appointed for the period to 20 May 2014.

Cr Croot moved  
Cr Shepherd seconded

*That the report be noted.*

**Motion carried**

A query was raised about appointment of ORC Councillors to hear ORC resource consent applications. It was explained that the majority of consent applications for non controversial work could be decided by a staff panel, however where these applications were lodged by the ORC they were heard by ORC Councillor commissioners to avoid perceptions of bias. Where the issue was controversial, external commissioners would be appointed. It was pointed out that ORC had followed this practice for about 20 years. Mr McRae commented that the Making Good Decisions training for hearing commissioners included a component on impartiality and openness.

The meeting closed at 10.44 am.

**Chairperson**

